



## CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

September 29, 2000

### **H.R. 4320** **Great Ape Conservation Act of 2000**

*As ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works on  
September 28, 2000*

#### **SUMMARY**

H.R. 4320 would establish a new fund to support the conservation of great apes (gorillas, orangutans, and others). The act would direct the Secretary of the Interior to use amounts in the new fund to finance eligible conservation efforts, which may include specific projects such as research and education as well as ongoing activities such as law enforcement. For this purpose, H.R. 4320 would authorize the appropriation of \$5 million annually over the 2001-2005 period. Also, the Secretary would be authorized to accept and use funds donated for conservation purposes without further appropriation.

Assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 4320 would cost \$10 million over the 2001-2005 period. We estimate that the remainder of the authorized funds would be spent after 2005. The legislation would affect direct spending and receipts by allowing the Secretary to accept and spend donations; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures would apply. We estimate that any such donations, however, would involve minor, offsetting amounts. H.R. 4320 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

#### **ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT**

The estimated budgetary impact of H.R. 4320 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 300 (natural resources and environment). Spending for the conservation of great apes would constitute a new program in the federal budget; there is no spending for this activity under current law.

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars				
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
<b>CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION</b>					
Authorization Level	5	5	5	5	5
Estimated Outlays	a	1	2	3	4
a. Less than \$500,000.					

## **BASIS OF ESTIMATE**

For this estimate, CBO assumes that the entire amounts authorized by H.R. 4320 will be appropriated for each of fiscal years 2001 through 2005. Outlay estimates are based on historical patterns for similar programs, which indicate that the rate of spending over the first few years of the new program would be slow.

Enacting H.R. 4320 also would affect both receipts and direct spending by authorizing the Secretary of the Interior to accept and use donations. CBO estimates that this provision would increase federal receipts by less than \$500,000 annually once the conservation program has been established. Because these receipts would be offset by additional direct spending, the net impact of this provision on the federal budget would be negligible in each year.

## **PAY-AS-YOU-GO CONSIDERATIONS**

The Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act sets up pay-as-you-go procedures for legislation affecting direct spending or receipts. Although enacting H.R. 4320 would affect both receipts and direct spending, CBO estimates that the amounts involved would be less than \$500,000 annually.

## **INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT**

H.R. 4320 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

## **PREVIOUS CBO ESTIMATE**

On July 26, 2000, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for H.R. 4320 as passed by the House of Representatives on July 25, 2000. The two versions of the legislation are identical, as are our cost estimates.

## **ESTIMATE PREPARED BY:**

Federal Costs: Deborah Reis

Impact on State, Local, and Tribal Governments: Marjorie Miller

Private Sector: Tim VandenBerg

## **ESTIMATE APPROVED BY:**

Peter H. Fontaine

Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis